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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
NIGERIA

IPF:(1992-96) $119 993 000

(NIR/91/020) - Building the Capacity for Training in Electronic and Computer Engineering at Lagos State University (LASU)

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	11 August 1993
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Lagos State University
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$628 600

Project background

Electronic and computer engineering are perhaps the most rapidly developing fields in engineering. However, in contrast to the remarkable advancement recorded in the developed regions of the world in this field, supportive local facilities have lagged behind in qualitative as well as quantitative terms. The current level of production of computer and electronics engineers in Nigeria, for instance, is far below the national requirement. Figures released by the Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN) for 1986 show that there are about 300 qualified practicing engineers in computer/electronic engineering against a national requirement of 4000 engineers. Available information indicate that this trend remains valid and is likely to expand with the increased requirement for computerization in the economy.

Consequently, there is need for additional effort in order to reduce this manpower imbalance. At the present level of manpower production in this vital area, and given a stationary population growth, the country will have to produce a minimum of 600 computer/electronic engineers yearly for six years to fill this gap. However, the Nigerian population is far from attaining the stationery level. A vigorous effort is therefore required to reduce this resource imbalance. The establishment of training facilities in electronics and computer engineering, and other related disciplines will provide a lead-way in that direction.

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[1/] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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The above-mentioned situation is exacerbated by shortage of local expertise required for the maintenance and effective operation of electronics and computerized equipment used in the training of engineers in the few cases the are available. The proposed assistance intends to address this equally important area of deficiency.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) establish two laboratories for teaching and research purposes in electronics and computer engineering; (b) institute revised curricula for electronic and computer engineering programmes at LASU; (c) train LASU staff to man the project, maintain the laboratories, and institute continuing education programme in this important area for professionals; (d) reduce national deficiency in the supply of trained professionals in electronics and computer engineering; (e) constitute the students and staff of Lagos State University in the specified areas as the immediate beneficiaries of the project; (f) provide the staff and students of other universities in Nigeria with the access to the facilities of the laboratories through an inter-university exchange programme; (g) enable practicing professionals to sharpen their skills through the continuing education programme; and (h) establish a pool of well-trained and skilled personnel in the specified fields.

Inputs

UNDP will provide two experts in electronics and computer engineering for curricula revision (eight man-months), two experts with bias in continuing education programme (eight man-months); study tours for two senior management staff, and finance training for staff; and equipment for the two laboratories.

Financial data

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Personnel	260 000
Training	130 000
Equipment	203 600
Miscellaneous	35 000
Total	628 600

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